

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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O 061705Z SEP 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5682
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S E C R E T NATO 08491

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF AND USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, NPG, NATO
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON ENHANCED RADIATION/REDUCED
BLAST WEAPONS

1. AMBASSADOR HARTOGH CALLED ON AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING TO SAY HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE HAGUE TO REQUEST THAT NATO CONSULTATIONS ON ENHANCED RADIATION/REDUCED BLAST (RB) WEAPONS BE CONDUCTED IN TWO MEETINGS A WEEK APART. HE SAID THE HAGUE ASKED FOR THIS BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE THE US THE NETHERLANDS' FULLY CONSIDERED POLITICAL VIEWS ON SEPTEMBER 13, AT SAME MEETING WHERE ISSUE PRESENTED. THEY WANTED TO BE IN A POSITION TO TELL THEIR PARLIAMENT THEY HAD GIVEN SUCH VIEWS TO THE US; AND THE PROPOSED SECOND MEETING WOULD ACCOMPLISH THAT PURPOSE.

2. HARTOGH SAID HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO CARRY OUT HIS INSTRUCTION WITH LUNS AND ASKED WHETHER HE COULD NOT SAY THAT THE US CONCURRED.

3. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT A WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN HAD SAID THE PRESIDENT WOULD MAKE A DECISION ON PRODUCTION

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DURING SEPTEMBER AND THAT WASHINGTON MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER THE EFFECT OF THE DUTCH POSITION ON THIS TIMING. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD HAVE TO SEEK GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON.

4. HARTOGH STRESSED THAT THE HAGUE WAS NOT SEEKING TO DELAY THE US DECISION. HE NOTED THAT THE DUTCH WERE

PREPARING QUESTIONS FOR THE 13TH, PROMISED TO PASS ON TO THE HAGUE OUR SUGGESTION THAT WE BE PROVIDED THESE QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE, AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE DUTCH FULLY EXPECTED TO GIVE US FULL COMMENTS BY THE 20TH.

5. COMMENT: HARTOGH HAD WITH HIM PRESS CLIPPINGS INDICATING THAT THE DUTCH SOCIALIST PARTY HAS ALREADY COME OUT AGAINST THE RB WEAPON. HE EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THIS STAND IS NOT BINDING ON SOCIALIST MINISTERS SUCH AS DEFENSE MINISTER STEMERDINK AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL. ALTHOUGH MISSION WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY HAGUE'S EVALUATION, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT WANTS TO GIVE US ITS CONSIDERED VIEWS AND TO BE IN A POSITION TO TELL ITS PARLIAMENT THAT THIS HAS BEEN DONE. FROM WHAT HARTOGH SAID DUTCH WOULD APPEAR TO BE PRIMARILY CONCERNED ABOUT HANDLING THEIR OWN INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS ON THIS TOPIC.

6. IT WOULD SEEM TO BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO AGREE WITH THE DUTCH PROCEDURAL SUGGESTION. TO DO OTHERWISE COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO MUTUAL RECRIMINATIONS CONCERNING WHETHER "MEANINGFUL" CONSULTATIONS WERE HELD. IN ANY EVENT THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN FORCE THE DUTCH TO COMMENT FULLY ON THE 13TH, AND THEIR POSITION IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE GERMANS CONCERNING THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS SET FOR THE 12TH.

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7. WE RECOGNIZE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE WASHINGTON TEAM TO STAY OVER FOR A WEEK OR TO RETURN SO SOON TO BRUSSELS. USNATO, HOWEVER, WOULD BE ABLE ON THE 20TH TO PASS ON ANSWERS TO ANY QUESTIONS LEFT OVER FROM THE 13TH AND TO TAKE ON BOARD ANY FURTHER ALLIED COMMENTS. END COMMENT.

8. REQUEST GUIDANCE. BENNETT

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF AND USNMR SHAPE.

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NNN

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